

1984 PRESS RELEASES

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8400



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

Bureau of Indian Affairs

For Release February 1, 1984

Lovett 202/343-7445

BIA REQUESTS \$928.7 MILLION FOR 1985

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has asked Congress to appropriate \$928.7 million for its 1985 fiscal year programs and projects. This is an increase of \$21 million over the 1984 appropriations.

The BIA will receive an additional \$100 million for reservation road construction, through the Department of Transportation, under provisions of the Highway Improvement Act of 1982.

The budget also proposes FY 1984 supplementals including \$17.0 million for the Ak-Chin Irrigation Project in Arizona and \$7.4 million for welfare grants (as a transfer from the construction account).

Kenneth L. Smith, Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, said that the budget request reflects a continued effort on the part of the Reagan Administration to support Indian self-determination and tribal self-government. Smith noted that the Administration's Indian policy statement issued in January, 1983 called for the strengthening of tribal governments and special efforts to develop reservation economies.

The 1985 budget requests increases for two tribal development initiatives started in 1983. A program to help small tribes acquire basic management skills needed to administer tribal and federal programs has been increased from \$3.5 million in 1984 to \$5 million in 1985.

A "seed-money" program to encourage new reservation enterprises, requiring 75 percent of the total funding to come from non-federal sources, will increase from \$5 million in 1984 to \$10 million in 1985.

The budget request also includes \$16.8 million for self-determination grants to tribes to help them expand their abilities to govern their own affairs on the reservations.

The importance of Indian education continues to be stressed with \$273.4 million requested for the operation of Indian schools, assistance to Indian

students in public schools, and adult and college-level programs. This total includes \$29.5 million for assistance to Indian college students; \$11.1 million for tribally controlled community colleges, and \$9.1 million for three federally-operated post-secondary schools.

The 1985 request also includes \$212.6 million requested for Indian services; \$67 million for economic development and employment programs; \$96.9 million for natural resources development; \$47.7 million for trust responsibilities; \$90.2 million for facilities management; \$67.4 million for general administration and \$73.3 million for construction projects.

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BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
F.Y. 1985 BUDGET REQUEST (IN THOUSAND DOLLARS)

	FY 1984 Approp. to date	FY 1985 Budget Estimate
School Operations	176,933	180,683
Johnson O'Malley Education Assistance	26,000	26,185
Continuing Education	52,821	53,243
Education Contract Support	--	13,340
EDUCATION	<u>255,754</u>	<u>273,451</u>
 Tribal Government Services	23,694	26,115
Social Services	99,609	105,752
Law Enforcement	34,944	36,409
Self-Determination Services	58,779	25,255
Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program.	3,951	3,830
Indian Services Contract Support	--	15,240
INDIAN SERVICES	<u>220,977</u>	<u>212,601</u>
 Employment Development	26,341	25,787
Business Enterprise Development	10,521	16,220
Road Maintenance.	22,081	22,337
Econ. Develop./Employ. Contract Support	--	2,730
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.	<u>58,943</u>	<u>67,074</u>
 Forestry and Agriculture.	76,282	76,552
Minerals, Mining, Irrigation and Power.	16,406	15,819
Natural Res. Dev. Contract Support	--	4,551
NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT	<u>92,688</u>	<u>96,922</u>
 Indian Rights Protection.	17,823	17,951
Real Estate and Financial Trust Services.	27,531	28,979
Trust Responsibilities Contract Support	--	813
TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES.	<u>45,354</u>	<u>47,743</u>
 FACILITIES MANAGEMENT	<u>91,113</u>	<u>90,196</u>
 Management and Administration	46,274	54,568
Employee Compensation Payments.	6,829	6,998
Program Management	5,970	5,819
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.	<u>59,073</u>	<u>67,385</u>
 OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS (Total)	823,902	<u>855,372</u>
 Irrigation Systems.	5,700	11,981
1984 Supplemental (Ak Chin)	--	-0-
Building and Utilities.	50,220	40,540
Housing	23,000	20,803
CONSTRUCTION	<u>78,920</u>	<u>73,324</u>
 ROAD CONSTRUCTION (Total)	4,000 <u>a/</u>	-0- <u>a/</u>
 EASTERN INDIAN LAND CLAIMS.	<u>900</u>	<u>-0-</u>
 TOTAL, FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS	<u>907,722</u>	<u>928,696</u>

a/ Does not include construction project funds in FY 1984 and FY 1985 and program management and supervision funds in FY 1985 which will be provided through contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund as part of the Federal Lands Highway Program of the Department of Transportation (1984 and 1985 = \$100.0 million).



8401

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Bureau of Indian Affairs

For Release February 17, 1984

Lovett 202/343-7445

BIA ANNOUNCES NEW AREA DIRECTORS FOR SACRAMENTO, ANADARKO OFFICES

Interior Assistant Secretary Kenneth L. Smith has announced the appointment of new area directors for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) at Sacramento, California and Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Maurice W. Babby, area director at Anadarko, has been transferred to the Sacramento office and William P. Ragsdale, assistant area director for economic development in the Phoenix, Arizona area, has been assigned to Anadarko. The BIA has a total of 12 area offices, or regional offices, throughout the United States.

Babby, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, was the area director in Sacramento before coming to Anadarko in 1982. In his 28 years with the BIA, he has served in a variety of top administrative and managerial positions. He was director of administration, acting director of legislation and a special project development manager in the BIA central office in Washington, D.C. He has also worked in the Aberdeen, South Dakota; Billings, Montana and Window Rock, Arizona (Navajo) area offices.

A business administration graduate of Sacramento State University, he subsequently earned a Masters in public administration from the University of Oklahoma.

Ragsdale, a member of the Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma, is a former Marine Corps Captain who has been the assistant area director at Phoenix since 1979. Ragsdale, 38, completed the government's Senior Executive Service (SES) candidate development program in 1983 and is moving into his first SES position.

A native of Muskogee, Oklahoma and graduate of Central State University, Edmond, Oklahoma, Ragsdale served for more than a year as the Deputy Director of the BIA's Office of Trust Responsibilities in Washington, D.C. He was superintendent of the Uintah and Ouray agency at Fort Duchesne, Utah from 1976 to 1979.

Both appointments are effective February 19.

8402



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Bureau of Indian Affairs
For Release June 18, 1984

Lovett 202/343-7445

Fiftieth Anniversary of Act that Changed Tribal History Is Marked

The course of American Indian history was drastically changed, fifty years ago, by the passage of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, Interior Assistant Secretary Ken Smith told Indian leaders in a letter marking the act's fiftieth anniversary. Smith, a Wasco Indian from Oregon, is the Reagan Administration's top Indian official.

Smith noted that the act "marked a turning point in Federal-Indian relations. It halted or reversed prior policies which had cumulatively proved disastrous for Indians."

The act ended a period of almost fifty years in which federal policy was to break up tribal land holdings through allotments to Indian individuals. Under this policy, implemented by the General Allotment Act of 1887, Indian land holdings were reduced from more than 136 million acres in 1887 to less than 50 million acres in 1934.

The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 ended the allotment period and its attempt to dismantle traditional tribal groups. The act initiated substantive efforts by the federal government to develop functional governments and to work with tribes for the improvement of living conditions on reservations.

Smith wrote: "The importance of the Indian Reorganization Act . . . cannot be overemphasized, as previous federal Indian policies up to that time had increasingly diminished Indian land holdings and the freedom of Indian people to practice their own culture and customs, and had resulted in a steady decline of the ability of tribes to function in their sovereign capacity."

Smith said the act represented a major national commitment to improve the administration of Indian affairs and it reaffirmed the right of tribes to exist as self-governing entities.

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

8403

IN REPLY REFER TO

Bureau of Indian Affairs
For Release June 22, 1984

Lovett 202/343-7445

Livestock Impoundment Seen as No Obstacles to Navajo-Hopi Negotiations

Resumption of livestock impoundment by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Hopi partitioned lands in northern Arizona should not deter leaders of the Navajo and Hopi Indian tribes from continuing to work toward a negotiated settlement of their differences, Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs John W. Fritz said today.

The Bureau resumed impoundment activities June 12.

"The chairmen of both tribes contacted me and were concerned that the Bureau activities would hamper their on-going attempts to reach agreement," Fritz said.

"I told them the federal government fully supported their talks," he continued. "But in upholding the law and obeying orders of the courts we have no alternative but to continue our range management program, which includes impoundment."

Seven animals were picked up by the BIA's Hopi agency staff June 12-13.

Fritz said both Navajo Chairman Peterson Zah and Hopi Chairman Ivan Sidney had been informed that impoundment activities would resume.

"The two chairmen were concerned that impoundment at this particular time might have been designed to embarrass them politically," Fritz said. "I assured them in the strongest possible words that this was not the case."

Several months ago Zah and Sidney announced they had initiated discussions to resolve the Navajo-Hopi situation, including consideration of a possible land exchange.

"The Navajo-Hopi dispute has been around for about a century," Fritz said. "We are happy that, finally, chairmen from the two tribes are sitting down to talk. We are hopeful the discussions will be productive."

Fritz added, "the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the federal government have an obligation to uphold the law and carry out the dictates of the courts. We will continue to meet those obligations."

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Bureau of Indian Affairs
For Release _____

Lovett 202/343-7445

Livestock Impoundment Seen as No Obstacles to Navajo-Hopi Negotiations

Resumption of livestock impoundment by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Hopi partitioned lands in northern Arizona should not deter leaders of the Navajo and Hopi Indian tribes from continuing to work toward a negotiated settlement of their differences, Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs John W. Fritz said today.

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Livestock Impoundment Seen as No Obstacle to
Navajo - Hopi Negotiations

~~news release~~

d/r/a/f/t

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED

JUN 14 1984

Resumption of livestock impoundment by the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Hopi Partitioned Lands in northern Arizona should serve to deter leaders of the Navajo and Hopi Indian tribes from continuing to work toward a negotiated settlement of their differences, Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs John W. Fritz said today.

The Bureau resumed impoundment activities ~~Tuesday~~ (June 12).

^{the} "The chairmen of both tribes contacted me and were concerned that Bureau activities ~~in the area~~ would hamper their on-going attempts to reach agreement," Fritz said.

"I told them the federal government fully supported their talks," he continued. "But in upholding the law and obeying ^{orders of the courts} the courts we have no alternative but to continue our range management program, which includes impoundment."

^{Seven} ~~Five~~ animals were picked up by the BIA's Hopi Agency ~~Land Operations~~ staff ~~Tuesday and Wednesday~~ (June 12-13).

Fritz said both Navajo Chairman Peterson Zah and Hopi Chairman ^{had been} Ivan Sidney were informed ~~last week~~ that impoundment activities would resume.

"The two chairmen were concerned that impoundment at this particular time might have been designed to embarrass them politically," Fritz said. "I assured them in the strongest possible words that this was not the case."

Fritz said the Bureau, while continuing to monitor the number of animals on the HPL, had not impounded livestock since

—more—

Several months ago Zah and Sidney announced they had initiated discussions to resolve the Navajo-Hopi situation, including consideration of a possible land exchange.

about
"The Navajo-Hopi dispute has been around for ~~more than~~ a century," Fritz said. "We are happy that, finally, chairmen from the two tribes are sitting down to talk. We are hopeful the discussions will be productive."

FRITZ added that
"At the same time," ~~Fritz~~ said, "the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the federal government have an obligation to uphold the law and carry out the dictates of the courts. We will continue to meet ^{those} ~~these~~ obligations."

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RECEIVED
JUN 14 1984
ALBUQUERQUE AREA OFFICE
OFFICE SERVICES



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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Bureau of Indian Affairs
For Release July 9, 1984

Shaw 202/343-4576
Lovett 202/343-7445
Oxendine 202/343-7445

Ouster of Tribal Officials Not Approved; Winnebagos Must Hold General Council

The Interior Department's Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, John Fritz, ruled today that the attempted removal June 2 of eight members of the business committee of the Wisconsin Winnebago Indian Tribe would not be recognized because procedures required by the tribe's constitution had not been followed.

"We decline to recognize the attempted June 2 removal," Fritz said, "but will recognize the results of a special general council removal hearing conducted in accordance with Wisconsin Winnebago law."

Fritz added that he was sending Fred Ragsdale, a Chemehuevi Indian from the law school faculty at the University of New Mexico, as a special representative from the Department to work with responsible members of the tribe for the conduct of a special general council meeting. Ragsdale has successfully helped other tribal groups resolve internal governmental problems.

In a letter to the attorney of the Winnebago factional leaders, Fritz said that Ragsdale's efforts would be aimed at helping them achieve mutually agreeable solutions to tribal problems.

Fritz identified three problems to be resolved:

- 1) Correctly conducting a general council to consider the removal charges in accordance with the tribal constitution;
- 2) Establishing a suitable body for the management of the tribe's bingo operation, including appropriate accounting and oversight controls; and
- 3) Revising and clarifying the tribal constitution.

Fritz concluded his letter to the tribal representatives by saying that he expected the general council hearing to be called quickly. He said the Department, if necessary, would call the hearing under Section 3 of Article VII of the tribal constitution.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release July 23, 1984

Shaw (202) 343-4576

SECRETARY TRANSFERS NEW MEXICO PROPERTY TO INDIAN PUEBLOS

Interior Secretary William Clark today formally transferred the 44-acre site of the former Albuquerque Indian School to the 19 Indian Pueblos of New Mexico.

In ceremonies at the U.S. Capitol, the Secretary witnessed acceptance of the deed to the property by representatives of the 19 Pueblos. Ken Smith, Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, earlier this month executed the quitclaim deed which stipulated that acceptance of the property by the Pueblos must be completed no later than August 15.

"This is a giant acquisition for the Indian Pueblos of New Mexico and provides these tribal governments with the basis for additional revenue generation through possible economic development projects," Secretary Clark said.

"I am proud to be a part of these actions that mean so much to the Indians of New Mexico. Additional development on this property should provide employment for members of the Pueblos and other local citizens, lessen tribal dependence on Federal funds and programs and reduce the Federal presence, all of which are objectives of this Administration's Indian policy," he added.

Initial use of the property will be for the continued operation and administration of programs under contract by the Pueblos for the Departments of Interior, Health and Human Services, Labor and Commerce. In addition, the new owners will develop the property for commercial uses.

Secretary Clark met in December with representatives of the New Mexico Pueblos. As a result of that meeting, the Pueblos submitted a revised version of their 1981 application for the property, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs began an intensive study of the application. After appraisal of the property, an environmental assessment of the effects of the proposed transfer and development of covenants for the protection of historical resources, the final paperwork was presented for Assistant Secretary Smith's decision in early July.

The three original remaining buildings on the former Albuquerque Indian School property are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The BIA operated a school for Indian students on the property before transferring the students to Sante Fe in 1980.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

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IN REPLY REFER TO

Bureau of Indian Affairs
For Release August 28, 1984

Lovett 202/343-7445

Requests for Off-Reservation Lands Denied to Kaw Tribe

The ~~Department~~ of the Interior announced today that Indian tribes will not be allowed to put off-reservation land into U.S. trust status for the purpose of ~~expanding~~ bingo operations to new areas

In a letter to M.M. Chouteau, chairman of the Kaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Interior Assistant Secretary Ken Smith said; "We do not believe that it should be the ~~Department's~~ policy to facilitate the extension of trust status to parcels of land located off-reservation solely for the purpose of accomodating these types of activities."

Smith ~~denied~~ the Kaw Tribe's request to have five acres of land in Kay County, Oklahoma taken in trust by the United States so the tribe could operate a bingo game, not subject to state regulations, on the site. Noting that he was aware of the potential revenue that might accrue to the tribe from a successful bingo operation, Smith said the "implications such acquisitions may have on the Department's land acquisition activities nationwide," and the possible impact for all tribes.

The United States now holds more than 52 million acres of land in trust for Indian tribes and individuals. These trust lands are generally not under state jurisdiction, but are subject to federal and tribal laws. In recent years, a number of tribes have initiated high stakes bingo games on their reservations as a source of needed tribal revenues.

The success of these games, some of which have regularly attracted busloads of visitors to the reservations from surrounding states, has created an interest in expanding the games to new areas. In at least one instance, an Oklahoma tribe has been asked to accept land in an Ohio community to be put into trust and used for a bingo game. The community apparently believes it would benefit from the influx of visitors the game would bring. In another situation, according to news reports, a Minnesota tribe has been offered a vacated Sears store for a bingo game in the city of Duluth.

Assistant Secretary Smith said the discretionary authority of the Secretary to accept land in trust may allow tribes to acquire off-reservation land "in order to further essential tribal programs." Such off-reservation acquisitions, however, are intended to be the exception and not the rule under departmental regulations, Smith said. "The general policy," Smith said, "is that such acquisitions will be made only under exceptional circumstances."

Smith concluded his letter to the Kaw chairman with a clear statement of Departmental policy. "It will, therefore, be the Department's policy to decline to accept off-reservation land in trust status for bingo or similar purposes where such activity would be violative of state law if that activity were conducted on non-trust lands. To do otherwise may seriously erode the ability of the Department to accept land in trust for tribes for housing purposes, or for more traditional types of economic development."

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

Bureau of Indian Affairs
For Release August 28, 1984

Lovett 202/343-7445

Tribe's efforts to Have Off-Reservation Land for Bingo Is Denied

Interior Assistant Secretary Ken Smith has denied the request of an Oklahoma tribe to have off-reservation land given U.S. trust status to allow the tribe to operate a bingo game free of state regulation

In rejecting the request of the Kaw Tribe to have five acres of land in Kay County, Oklahoma, taken in trust by the United States, Smith said he considered the legal and political impact on all tribes, not just the tribe making the request.

Smith told M.M. Chouteau, chairman of the Kaw tribal business committee, in an August 17, letter, that he did "not believe that the Department should necessarily extend trust status to parcels of land located off-reservation solely for the purpose of accomodating these (bingo) activities."

Smith explained in his letter that the Secretary of the Interior has discretionary authority to take lands in trust for Indian tribes, but Departmental regulations set forth a requirement that off-reservation acquisitions should be "made only under exceptional circumstances" and "to further certain essential tribal programs."

Generally, when lands are taken in trust for a tribe, they are within the boundaries of a reservation or contiguous to it.

In recent months, since high stakes bingo games have become an important source of revenue for some tribes, there has been publicity about the possibility of establishing new reservation areas for bingo purposes in a number of communities. A town in Ohio, for example, has offered land to the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and two cities in Minnesota have offered land to tribes in that state.

The Assistant Secretary said that each request for off-reservation lands to be put into trust will be evaluated on its own merits. He added that in the Kaw request, particular attention was given to the use intended for the land and potential jurisdictional conflicts.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Bureau of Indian Affairs
For Release October 24, 1984

Lovett 202/343-7445

HEARINGS IN ALASKA ON NATIVE SETTLEMENT ACT ARE SCHEDULED

The Department of the Interior will conduct a series of hearings in late November and early December on the status of Alaska Natives and the implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kenneth L. Smith will preside over hearings at Fairbanks, November 27; Bethel, November 28; and Juneau, November 30

Deputy Under Secretary William P. Horn will conduct hearings in Alaska at Nome, December 3, and Anchorage, December 4.

The purpose of the hearings is to gather views, opinions, information and recommendations to consider in the preparation of a report to Congress, required by the Settlement Act.

A 600-page draft report was sent in August to more than 250 representatives of Native organizations and other interested persons for review and comment.

Assistant Secretary Smith said the "report is of major importance to the Alaska Natives and the State because of its impact on future Congressional actions, including possible modifications of the ANCSA provisions."

Under ANCSA the Alaska Natives received about 44 million acres of land and about \$1 billion in exchange for their aboriginal land rights. The act created 13 regional corporations and about 200 village corporations to receive and administer the Native property.

Information about the hearings, including time and place, will be published in the Federal Register and in newspapers throughout Alaska.

Persons wishing to testify and those seeking further information should contact Glen Robertson or Liz Rummell in the Bureau of Indian Affairs area office, Federal Building, Juneau, Alaska 99802 (907/586-7177) or any BIA agency office in Alaska.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release November 29, 1984

Lovett 202/343-7445

TOP INDIAN OFFICIAL AT INTERIOR SUBMITS RESIGNATION

Interior Secretary William Clark announced today that Kenneth L. Smith, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior, has submitted his resignation to President Reagan, effective December 7

A Wasco Indian from the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon, Smith was the first Indian from a reservation background to direct the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Before coming to Washington in 1981 he served for ten years as the general manager of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation

Secretary Clark said, "This Administration has been well served by Ken Smith, and he will be remembered for his many accomplishments and by all who had the opportunity to work with him.

In his resignation letter, Smith noted that he had fulfilled his commitment to serve a full term and "it is time for me to take on new challenges and opportunities.

Smith praised President Reagan for his Indian policy which "returned decision making authority to the tribal governments" and for his support of "innovative efforts in developing the economies on reservations."

In October of this year, Smith was honored by the United Indian Development Association as the 1984 Jay Silverheels Achievement Award winner for his significant contributions to the Indian community

Smith, 49, grew up on the Warm Springs Reservation. After graduating from the University of Oregon in 1959, he went to work for the Confederated Tribes as an accountant and subsequently became controller and then general manager.

(more)

At Senate confirmation hearings in 1981, Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield testified that Smith had "utilized his managerial and organizational skills to make the (Warm Springs) reservation a model of economic success with more than 1,000 persons employed and an annual payroll of more than \$10 million."

Throughout his term of office, Smith constantly stressed the need for tribes to establish sound, stable tribal governments to provide leadership for tribal programs and to create the environment for economic development on the reservation.

In a June 1984 talk to the National Tribal Chairmen's Association, he "There are breakdowns and insufficiencies and other problems in the BIA and on reservations -- and I am terribly concerned about them, just as you are. determined to do whatever I can to eliminate them -- except that I won't go back to the old paternalistic bandaid approach that covers up the symptom and does nothing to address the real problems.... We are still convinced that Indian self-determination is the most effective policy for producing real change and real improvement in Indian reservation life."

Smith expects to serve as a consultant at Interior for the next month or two. He has announced no other future plans, but indicated he expects to return to Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release November 30, 1984

IMMEDIATE STUDY PROPOSED FOR PRESIDENTIAL INDIAN REPORT

The report of the Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies, submitted to the President today, will receive "immediate and thorough review. The Department is committed to improving the economic strength and independence of Indian reservations," Interior Department spokesman Rusty Brashear said today.

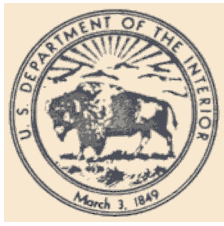
Brashear noted the report "is a study of reservation economies that is both detailed and complex. As a major administrator of Federal Indian programs and as trustee for reservation lands, this Department is obligated to move quickly to analyze this document and to recommend appropriate action."

President Reagan established the Commission in January 1983 to provide advice on how to develop a stronger economy on Indian reservations and to strengthen tribal government.

The nine member commission contains both Indian and non-Indian members. It held public meetings in many parts of the country, concentrating on those areas with large Indian populations.

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EDITORS NOTE: The Commission's charter provides that the Interior Department provide it logistical support. As part of that effort, copies of the Commission report are available from the Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, telephone 202/343-3171.



8411

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20245

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Bureau of Indian Affairs
For Release December 17, 1984

Lovett 202/343-7445

JOINT VENTURE FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT ON CROW RESERVATION APPROVED:

John Fritz, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior, has approved a joint venture agreement between the Crow Tribe of Montana and a subsidiary corporation of the O'Hare Energy Company of Denver for oil and gas exploration and development on the reservation

The agreement gives the tribe a 51 percent ownership in a partnership to be called the Raven Oil Company. The O'Hare subsidiary would own the other 49 percent and would provide all exploration costs.

The tribe, in addition to owning 51 percent of Raven Oil, would be paid lease rental fees and bonuses totaling \$26 per acre and a 13 percent royalty on production.

Fritz, in his letter of approval to tribal chairman Donald Stewart, said the agreement was "clearly in the best interest of the Crow Tribe. It can provide economic benefits to the tribe over and above those provided by standard leases and its management organization allows tribal representatives full input into management decisions."

At a tribal council meeting October 13, the tribe voted its approval of the agreement.

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